

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Time (EDT)	Topic
12 - 12:10 p.m.	<p><b>Welcome Address</b>            Welcome from Advance CTE’s Board of Directors President</p> <p>Speaker:            - Sarah Heath, Board of Directors President, Advance CTE</p>
12:10- 12:40 p.m.	<p><b>Plenary Session: Presenting a New Vision for CTE</b>            Advance CTE, in collaboration with key partners, will soon be releasing a new vision for CTE, which charts a course for the future of CTE. This vision will require significant reflection, investment in the systems and high-quality programs that are supporting each learner successfully and equitably, and fundamental changes to the systems and structures that are limiting learner success. This session will present the new vision and its key principles for moving CTE forward.</p>
12:45 – 1:15 p.m.	<p><b>Breakout Sessions: Turning the New CTE Vision into Action</b>            Organized around the five principles in the new CTE vision, these breakout sessions will provide participants with an opportunity to collaboratively delve into the key actions that need to be taken to advance our new vision and identify strategies for implementing the vision at the national, state and local levels.</p>
1:25 – 1:55 p.m.	<p><b>Problems of Practice Round One</b>            Participants will work through challenges facing state CTE leaders to collaboratively identify actionable strategies and solutions.</p>
2- 2:30 p.m.	<p><b>Problems of Practice Round Two</b>            Participants will work through challenges facing state CTE leaders to collaboratively identify actionable strategies and solutions.</p>
2:40 – 3:10 p.m.	<p><b>Plenary Session: CTE and the Future of Work</b>            The coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic downturn has disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx learners, those without a high school degree and women. To ensure each learner is prepared for success in an ever-changing economy, the CTE system must be adaptive and responsive to the needs of industry now and in the future. This requires an understanding of the long-term impacts of coronavirus, globalization, technological advances and an increasingly diverse workforce, as well as strong partnerships across education, workforce and the private sector. This session will explore many of the changes the CTE field faces and strategies for ensuring CTE stays ahead of the curve.</p>

3:15- 4:00 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions: States Leading CTE Forward**

State leaders were engaging in the hard work of reimagining their state CTE systems, developing comprehensive Perkins V state plans and turning towards implementation right as the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the education and workforce systems. Learn how state leaders have come up with innovative and inspiring solutions and are continuing to lead CTE forward.

**Scaling CTE Innovations**

CTE leaders have had to rapidly shift the design and delivery of secondary and postsecondary CTE programs to a mix of virtual, hybrid and in-person instruction. Learn how states are incenting and supporting the virtualization of high-quality CTE instruction, supports and experiences.

**Data-driven Decision Making**

Quality data must be at the heart of all decisions made around CTE programming, funding, instruction and learner supports. In recent years, with some support and momentum from Perkins V, many states are leading efforts to restructure and improve their data systems. This session will feature promising practices for strengthening data systems, improving public reporting and building capacity for data-driven decision making at the state and local level.

Speakers:

- Donna Lewelling, Deputy Director, Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Kelly Zinck, Education Team Research Analyst, Oregon Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development
- Molly Abend, Data Management Coordinator, Maryland Longitudinal Data Center
- Nicassia Belton, Director of Data and Accountability for Career Programs, Maryland state Department of Education

**Alignment and Collaboration to Advance CTE in States**

Systems alignment is essential to fully support the needs of learners in an equitable, seamless and comprehensive way. Some states are leveraging their Perkins V plans as an opportunity to align CTE with other education and workforce priorities and initiatives. Hear from states that have found successful and replicable ways to coordinate across federal programs such as Perkins, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Individuals with Disabilities Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Speakers:

- Whitney Thompson, Senior Director for Career and Technical Education, Illinois Community College Board
- Jimmy Hull, State CTE Director, Alabama Department of Education
- Jennifer Burt, Standards and Accountability Administrator, Alabama State Department of Education

### Leading with an Equity Lens

As states seek to reimagine and strengthen their CTE systems and programs to equitably serve each learner, applying an equity lens can ensure that all decisions, policies and practices attend to the individualized needs of learners and tackle systemic and institutional barriers to success. This session will feature states that are putting equity at the center of their CTE systems - including intentionally focusing on serving rural, low socio-economic, and American Indian populations and improving CTE data systems - to ensure learners of all ages, races, genders and abilities are positioned for lifelong success.

Speakers:

- Christina Koch, Policy Associate, Advance CTE
- Cori Gray, Deputy State Director, Oklahoma
- Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, Montana University System

4:05 – 5:05 p.m.	<b>Advance CTE Business Meeting (Members Only)</b>
5:05 – 5:15 p.m.	<b>Wrap up</b>

## THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Time (EDT)	Topic
12 - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Opening Keynote</b>
12:35 – 1:20 p.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions: Breaking Barriers</b>

### Area Technical Centers- Under-utilized and Under-appreciated

There are nearly 1,4000 area technical centers (ATCs) in the United States but many policymakers and stakeholders are unaware of their existence. Bolstered by key findings from a Lumina Foundation-sponsored study, this session will illustrate how, as largely open-access institutions, ATCs can be leveraged to upskill and reskill learners, provide training to incumbent workers, and nimbly respond to the needs of business and industry in a local community. Recommendations from the study will be presented alongside state examples to demonstrate the significant variance in how these institutions function nationwide, including in their governance, populations served and role in the community. Learn more about how ATCs can and should play a role in creating our nation’s pipeline of talent and helping learners gain credentials of value.

Speakers:

- Dan Hinderliter, Policy Associate, Advance CTE
- Anthony Landis, Senior Director, College & Career Access & Success, Ohio Department of Higher Education

## **Career Advisements Throughout the Education Continuum**

Ensuring learners have the information and supports they need to make informed decisions about their education and career is critically important. Learn how some states are building career advisement systems to support each learner in their education and career journey from middle school through postsecondary education, with a specific focus on attending to the needs of learners who need it most.

### Speakers:

- Jeran Culina, Senior Policy Associate, Advance CTE
- Marina Parr, Communications Director, Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
- Dr. Sonya Wright-McMurray, Assistant State Director, Arkansas Division of Career and Technical Education, Arkansas Department of Career Education

## **Using Data to Advance Equity in CTE**

Achieving equity in CTE can only happen when we move from insights to action, use data to identify inequities and take steps to dismantle systemic barriers to access and success. Spurred by the implementation of Perkins V, Advance CTE partnered with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to develop a data-driven process for measuring opportunity gaps, identifying root causes and implementing strategies to achieve equity in CTE. In this session, participants will gain understanding in how they can use data to make progress towards closing opportunity gaps at the state and local level.

### Speakers:

- Austin Estes, Manager of Data & Research, Advance CTE
- Jeralyn Jargo, State Director, Career and Technical Education, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Eva Scates-Winston, CTE Equity Specialist, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

## **Effective and Equitable Messages for CTE Program Recruitment: A Research Update**

States play a key role in setting the messaging and narrative about CTE so that all stakeholders, particularly learners and families, understand the value and benefit of CTE programs. This session will explore new communications research from Advance CTE, drawn from focus groups and a national survey of over 2,000 learners and guardians. Participants will learn about the messages and themes that most resonate with and motivate learners and their guardians to consider CTE as an option for their education, with a particular focus on the messages that most resonate with Black and Latinx families, and get guidance on how to put the research into action.

### Speakers:

- Katie Fitzgerald, Director of Communications and Membership, Advance CTE
- Stacy Whitehouse, Senior Associate for Communications and State Engagement, Advance CTE

**Equity Workshop Part One**

This 90-minute workshop will dive into how to lead courageous conversations about race and CTE internally and with key stakeholders. State leaders have made commitments to advancing equity in CTE, most notably in their state Perkins V plans. However, there is often a disconnect between these commitments and the data, which show persistent opportunity and outcome gaps for historically marginalized learners. In order to understand this disconnect, state CTE leaders have to engage in honest and meaningful dialogue about the systemic and structural challenges facing marginalized learners in order to develop effective policies, programs and practices. This workshop introduces state CTE leadership to the latest Advance CTE tool designed to support facilitation of discussions on topics related to equity in CTE, with a focus on racial equity. Through interactive activities and small group discussions, participants will leave the workshop with awareness, knowledge and skills to begin engaging in meaningful discussions around equity in CTE policy and practice.

This two-part workshop requires separate registration and capacity is limited. Email Sara Gassman (sgassman@careertech.org) for more information

Speaker:

- Brian Robinson, Policy Associate, Advance CTE

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions: Supporting State CTE Leaders**

Advance CTE and partners have created tools, guides and resources to support state CTE leaders in their work around key topics like data, middle grades and communications.

**Understanding Benefits Cliffs and Fostering Economic Self-Sufficiency for Learners on Public Assistance**

CTE helps learners acquire the skills and experiences they need to achieve economic self-sufficiency. But for learners on public assistance, the leap into a career pathway — and higher wages — can be treacherous with the sudden loss of public benefits. In this session, experts from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta will discuss how to navigate these so-called benefits cliffs and what state leaders can do to help learners on public assistance make informed career choices.

Speaker:

- Alex Ruder, Principal CED Adviser, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

**How to Communicate about CTE's Role in the Economic Recovery**

CTE has a vital role to play in helping millions of Americans who have been impacted by the recent economic downturn to upskill or reskill, get back to work and earn a livable wage. Participants of this session will hear from state CTE leaders who have successfully positioned CTE at the center of equitable economic recovery efforts. This session will walk participants through Advance CTE's recently released economic recovery assets and provide participants with tools, resources, best practices and sample communication messages for policymakers and other key stakeholders that can immediately be put into practice.

**Speakers:**

- Brittany Cannady, Digital Media Associate, Advance CTE
- Angel Malone, State CTE Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, South Carolina Department of Education
- Suzi Raiford, Business and Industry Liaison, Office of Career and Technical Education, South Carolina Department of Education

**Career Clusters Framework: Innovation Workshopping Session**

Over the last year, Advance CTE has been coordinating a state-led effort to modernize The National Career Clusters® Framework. The goal of this effort is to develop a renewed Framework that is a modern construct, reflective of the future of work, and adaptable to the current and emerging needs of learners and the workplace. This session will offer participants an opportunity to learn more about the forthcoming innovation portal and submission process, and to engage in a brainstorming discussion to begin developing creative and innovative ideas that could be submitted to the innovation portal.

**Speaker:**

- Meghan Wills, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Advance CTE

**Broadening the Path: State Strategies for Supporting Middle Grades CTE**

The middle grades represent a critical time for learners; it is the time when they are making decisions and forming occupational identities that may have a lasting impact on their careers and livelihoods. Many states have begun the critical work improving the quality of and access to middle grades CTE for all learners. This session will enable participants to use a resource developed by Advance CTE and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) to explore design principles for CTE middle grades policies and programs, highlight what Idaho is doing to build out robust middle grade CTE offerings, and provide an opportunity for participants to evaluate key aspects of their own middle grades CTE policies and programs.

**Speakers:**

- Catherine Imperatore, Research Manager, ACTE
- Kate Kreamer, Deputy Executive Director, Advance CTE
- Jenni Bradford, Senior Program Quality Manager, Idaho Department of Education

**Equity Workshop Part Two**

This two-part workshop requires separate registration and capacity is limited. Email Sara Gassman (sgassman@careertech.org) for more information.

2:20 – 2:50 p.m.

**Plenary Session: Update from OCTAE**

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) will share an update on ongoing activity in support of states and Perkins V implementation, as well share emerging priorities under the new Biden Administration. Be sure to have questions ready for our partners at OCTAE!

2:55 – 3:40 p.m.	<b>Role-Alike Networking</b>
3:45 – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Plenary Session: Congressional Priorities</b> 2021 marks a change in federal leadership in the executive branch and in Congress. Learn about Congressional and Administration priorities for coronavirus recovery, apprenticeship, the Higher Education Act (HEA), WIOA and what this may mean for supporting and advancing equitable and high-quality CTE.
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Session</b>

**For a more information on the 2021 Spring Meeting, visit**  
<https://careertech.org/spring-meeting>